Author’s response to reviews

Title: Characterization of gut microbiota in children with pulmonary tuberculosis

Authors:

Weiran Li (lwr0311@126.com)
Yu Zhu (zhuyu_wj@163.com)
Qiong Liao (33765410@qq.com)
Zhiling Wang (wang_zhi_ling@126.com)
Chaomin Wan (wcm0220@126.com)

Version: 3 Date: 24 Sep 2019

Author’s response to reviews:

Reply letter

Dear editor:

Thanks for your comments and we have revised the manuscript according to your comments. The revised contents have been marked in blue.

1. I would more specifically address the concerns of reviewer 1 regarding the small sample size as it relates to age groupings (e.g. as you stated in your response: each age grouping such as infants, adolescents, etc) may vary and as such deserves more detailed study in a larger sample size, or something to that effect.

Response

Thanks for your comments and we have discussed this content in the revision. We explained why we didn’t analyze the characterization of gut microbiota in PTB patients in different age groups including infant, childhood and adolescent stages. On page 19 line 1 to 8.
2. Discussion, line 17 page 17: need a comma not a period after [23]

Response

Thanks for your comments and we have corrected this on line 15 page 17

3. Methods, page 8 line 2: the platform is still referred to as the MiSeq, despite the fact that in the cover letter you state that the HiSeq was used. Would clarify

Response

Thanks for your comments. We are sorry for that. In fact, we used the MiSeq platform, not HiSeq platform. So in the revision, we have corrected this in the abstract on page 3 line 11 and the method part on page 8 line 1. It was a clerical error and we are sorry for that.

4. I would not consider E. faecium and E. faecalis harmless commensals. They can cause severe disease in some instances (e.g. VRE). I would remove the specific references to the Enterococci, but could keep the general statement that pathogens may be species specific.

Response

Thanks for your comments and we agree with your opinion. So in the revision, we have removed the contents “For example, although Enterococcus was recognized as a pathogen, this genus contains many harmless commensal bacterial species such as E. faecalis and E. faecium.” but kept the general statement that pathogens may be species specific. On page 16 line 6 to line 8.

5. For reference 1 (the WHO report) would list the date it was accessed and the URL/web address.

Response: we have added the web address after the reference 1.